



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

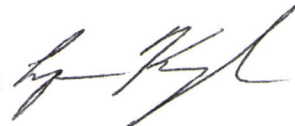
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November 14, 1994

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Thomas F. Miller, Vipont Mine, D/003/007, Box Elder County, Utah

Date of Inspection: November 9, 1994
Time of Inspection: 11:45am
Conditions: Cold, cloudy, windy, recent snow.
Participants: Dan Washington, BLM; Todd Transtrum, SITLA; Lynn Kunzler, DOGM
Purpose of Inspection: Document reports of recent activity and road improvements.

This joint agency inspection was conducted due to reports of road improvements being made to the Birch Creek road (access road to the Vipont mine). Road improvements involved lands owned by the BLM, State Trust Lands and Fee property.

Upon arrival at the main mine site (access was obtained via Granite Pass, which enters the mine site from above), it was noticed that there had been recent 'cat' work along-side the Quonset shed and on the access road through the site. Photos were taken to document this activity. No other recent activity was apparent throughout the mine site.

The access road leading up Birch Creek has been recently improved by widening the road to an average of 35 feet. Several width measurements were made along the improved section of road using a hip chain. The narrowest measurement was 32 feet and the widest measurement was 49 feet, measuring from cut to fill. The travel portion was 20-25 feet wide. The pre-existing road was a two-track road 10-12 feet wide (as observed near cattle guards on the road). It was also observed that materials and debris had been pushed into Birch Creek at several locations along the improved section.

The road improvements involved approximately 1.6 miles of BLM ground, .5 miles of State Trust Lands and 1.7 miles on Fee property, for a total of 3.8 miles in Utah (the road improvement extended across the State line into Idaho). The BLM and SITLA documented this activity to pursue action against the operator for conducting this activity without the proper permits, leases, or authorization.

Acreage involved with this road improvement is approximately 10.6 acres, assuming 23 feet wide improvement (35-foot current average width minus 12-foot pre-existing width) times 3.8 miles length.

cc: Tomas Miller, Operator - *United Silver Mines Inc.*
Dan Washington, BLM *2508 Zinfandel Dr*
Gary Bagley, SITLA *Rancho Cordova, CA 95670*
Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Tom Mitchell, AG
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